

Claim Listing:

1-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) A multi-tier system for digital radio communication, comprising:

a processor-based host adapted to control a remote unit;

a first-tier base station communicatively coupled to the host;

a first second-tier base station communicatively coupled to the first-tier base station;

and

a second second-tier base station wirelessly coupled to the first second-tier base station,

wherein the second second-tier base station is intermediate the first second-tier base station and the remote unit, and wherein the first second-tier base station is capable of communicating with the second second-tier base station without an intervening first-tier base station,

wherein the host is adapted to control the remote unit through the first-tier base station,

the first second-tier base station, and the second second-tier base station, and

wherein the second second-tier base station is adapted to go into a sleep mode for a preselected interval, wherein before entering the sleep mode, the second second-tier base station transmits an indication representative of the duration of the preselected interval to the remote unit.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the duration of the preselected interval is defined by a start and end time of the preselected interval.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[34]] 35, wherein the second second-tier base station ~~each of the plurality of additional second-tier base stations~~ is adapted to:

buffer data intended for the remote unit;

transmit an indication at predetermined intervals to inform the remote unit of the

presence of buffered data;

receive a request from the remote unit; and

provide the buffered data to the remote unit in response to receiving the request from the remote unit.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[34]] 35, wherein ~~at least one~~ the remote unit comprises a data collection device.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[34]] 35, wherein ~~at least one~~ the remote unit comprises a bar code reader or an RFID reader.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[34]] 35, wherein ~~at least one~~ the remote unit comprises at least one of a vending machine, a door locking mechanism, a computer peripheral, a thermostat, and a pager.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 40, wherein ~~at least one~~ the remote unit comprises a computer peripheral selected from the group comprising a printer, modem, handheld terminal, point of sale station, and other serial or parallel devices.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 35, wherein the first-tier base station is ~~wirelessly~~ connected to the host through a local area network.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 35, wherein the first second-tier base station is connected to the first-tier base station through a serial port.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[34]]~~ 35, wherein the second ~~second-tier base station communicates plurality of additional second-tier base stations~~ communicate with the first-tier base station through the first second-tier base station.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) A multi-tier system for digital radio communication, comprising:

a processor-based host adapted to control a remote unit through a control signal;

a first-tier base station adapted to receive the control signal from the host, wherein the first-tier base station operates in accordance with a first communication protocol;

a first second-tier base adapted to receive the control signal from the first-tier base station, wherein the first second-tier base station and the first-tier base station communicate using the first communications protocol; and

a second second-tier base station wirelessly coupled to the first second-tier base station, wherein the second second-tier base station is intermediate the first second-tier base station and the remote unit, and wherein the second second-tier base station is adapted to receive the control signal from the first second-tier base station using a different communications protocol from the first communications protocol and to provide the control signal to the remote unit, and

wherein the second second-tier base station is adapted to go into a sleep mode for a preselected interval, wherein before entering the sleep mode, the second second-tier base station transmits an indication representative of the duration of the preselected interval to the remote unit.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the duration of the preselected interval is defined by a start and end time of the preselected interval.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[34]] 49, wherein the second second-tier base station ~~each of the plurality of additional second-tier base stations~~ is adapted to:

transmit an associate command to the remote unit;
receive a message from the remote unit in response to the associate command, wherein
the message comprises an identifier associated with the remote unit; and
transmit a synchronization interval to the remote unit in response to receiving the message.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim [[48]] 49, wherein the second second-tier base station ~~each of the plurality of additional second-tier base stations~~ is adapted to:

transmit an associate command to the remote unit;
receive a message from the remote unit in response to the associate command, wherein
the message comprises an identifier associated with the remote unit; and

transmit a synchronization interval to the remote unit in response to receiving the message.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) A multi-tier system for digital radio communication, comprising:

a processor-based host adapted to control a remote unit;

a first-tier base station communicatively coupled to the host, wherein the first-tier base station operates in accordance with a first communication protocol;

a first second-tier base station communicatively coupled to the first-tier base station, wherein the first second-tier base station and the first-tier base station communicate using the first communications protocol; and

a second second-tier base station wirelessly coupled to the first second-tier base station, wherein the second second-tier base station is intermediate the first second-tier base station and the remote unit, and wherein the second-tier base stations have a shorter transmission range relative to that of the first-tier base station,

wherein the host is adapted to control the remote unit through the first-tier base station, the first second-tier base station, and the second second-tier base station, and

wherein the second second-tier base station is adapted to go into a sleep mode for a preselected interval, wherein before entering the sleep mode, the second second-tier base station transmits an indication representative of the duration of the preselected interval to the remote unit.

57. (Previously presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the duration of the preselected interval is defined by a start and end time of the preselected interval.

58. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[55]] 56, wherein the second second-tier base station ~~each of the plurality of additional second-tier base stations~~ is adapted to:

transmit an associate command to the remote unit;

receive a message from the remote unit in response to the associate command, wherein

the message comprises an identifier associated with the remote unit; and

transmit a synchronization interval to the remote unit in response to receiving the message.